Rice University
Center for Languages and Intercultural Communication
German 142: First-Year German II
Spring 2018

Instructor: Fatima Baig
Email: fatima.baig@rice.edu
Office: Rayzor Hall 329
Office hours: Wednesdays 2 p.m. – 3 p.m. and by appointment

Course description
GERM 142 is a 3-hour credit course designed as an introduction to the fundamentals of listening, reading, writing, spoken production and interaction in German. The course builds on GERM 141. The materials used in this course are authentic socio-culturally situated spoken language samples (interactions between two or more language users who are at different levels of competence and come from various regions and social backgrounds), web-based written communications (blogs, tweets, emails), and other written texts (poems, songs, short narratives, posters, advertisements, schedules, announcements). In in-class activities and homework assignments, students engage in explicit and structured analyses of contextualized language use, specific features of interactional discourse, and linguistic structures. Based on an active student-centered, critical-thinking approach, this course intends to raise student awareness of contextualized language use and socio-culturally significant interactions.

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- understand phrases and high-frequency words related to areas of immediate personal relevance (family, holidays, shopping, work, local area)
- comprehend the main point in short, clear, simple messages and announcements
- find specific, predictable information in simple everyday material such as advertisements, prospectuses, menus and timetables
- understand short simple personal letters, emails, and blog entries
- write short, simple notes and messages relating to matters in areas of immediate need
- write a simple personal letter or email
- use a series of phrases and sentences to describe in simple terms family members and other people, living conditions, educational background, a journey, and present or most recent job
- handle short direct social exchanges on familiar topics and activities
- talk about future plans and wishes
- make suggestions on when and where to meet someone
- make requests
- compliment another person

Prerequisite: GERM 141. May be placed in by the German placement test.

Materials
Lemcke, C., Rohrmann, L., et al. *Berliner Platz 2 Neu: Deutsch im Alltag* (combined textbook and workbook with 2 audio CDs for the workbook part). The materials are available at the Rice bookstore.

Assessment

Homework	20%
Quizzes (6x)	15%
Speaking Quizzes (spoken interaction) (2x)	15%
Writing Assignments (include reflections)	15%
Blog Project	20%
Chapter Tests (3x)	15%

Grading scale

A+ 99-100	B+ 88-89	C+ 78-79	D+ 68-69
A 94-98	B 84-87	C 74-77	D 64-67
A- 90-93	B- 80-83	C- 70-73	D- 60-63

Attendance and Absences

It is expected that you attend all class sessions. You have 3 authorized unexcused absences without penalty. Excused absences are defined as those for participation in university-sponsored activities, observance of religious holidays, or serious illness, all of which should be adequately documented. Please inform your instructor as soon as possible about an excused absence.

All other absences are considered unexcused absences. Starting with the 4th unexcused absence each absence will decrease your grade by one increment. For example, an A and 4 unexcused absences will result in an A-.

Participation

Simply attending the course is not enough. You need to take an active part in the class dynamics. Regular and active participation is essential for success in this course. You are expected to complete all assigned homework and come to class on time and prepared to participate actively.

Homework

Homework will be assigned on a regular basis and is due the next class day. The homework assigned builds on the materials discussed in class and engages you in the structured analysis of features of interactional competence and more extended language use (reading, listening, writing). The homework also helps to develop your linguistic knowledge (grammatical structures and vocabulary) and your socio-cultural awareness of contextualized language use. Procedure: Usually assignments will come from the workbook part of the textbook. You complete the assigned exercises and then use the provided answer key to check your work with a different color pen. Your instructor will mark your homework based on completion and effort. Each assignment is worth 0 to 5 points. Late work will be accepted, but 1 point will be deducted for each day the assignment is late after the due date.

Quizzes

Throughout the semester, you will take short quizzes that assess your sociocultural and linguistic knowledge. Quizzes also comprise of reading, writing, listening tasks and include the analysis of language use and situated interactional spoken (transcribed) language data.

Writing Assignments

During the semester you will write several short texts such as a report, a discussion of pros and cons, blog entry, etc. You may also be asked to write short reflections on your observations of language in action.

Speaking Quizzes
There will be two speaking quizzes which target your spoken interactional competencies. For these quizzes, you will engage in interactions with a peer, a German tutor, a German native speaker, or your instructor. More information about the speaking quizzes will be provided in class.

Blog Project
For this project you will create a blog. Every week your instructor will post a question or task related to the current textbook chapter we work on. You will have to 1) provide an answer to the question/task posed and 2) comment on the blog posts of two classmates you were assigned to. Detailed instructions and the grading rubric will be given in class and posted on Canvas.

Chapter Tests
You will take three chapter tests. These tests focus on the assessment of reading, listening, writing, and also include the analysis of language use and situated interactional spoken (transcribed) data.

Make-ups
If you know in advance that you will not be able to take an exam or quiz, you must make arrangements with your instructor prior to the missed exam to take it. If you have an unforeseen emergency on the day of the exam or quiz, you must contact the instructor as soon as possible or before you miss the scheduled time for the test to make other arrangements. Make-ups will only be allowed if you contact your instructor (by e-mail or in person) ahead of time, and provide documentation to justify the lateness. If late work is accepted, it will be with a penalty (decided by your instructor).

Honor Code
Information on Rice's Honor Code can be found at www.honor.rice.edu. Information regarding the relevant expectations on each assignment will be given with each assignment. All tests, exams, and assignments are taken under the Honor Code.

Disability Statement
Any student with a documented disability needing academic adjustments or accommodations is encouraged to speak with the instructor during the first two weeks of class. Students with disabilities need to contact the Disability Support Services Office in the Allen Center. All discussions will remain confidential.

Language Table
The German language table is a great opportunity to practice German outside of class in an informal setting. Everyone is invited to participate!

- Language table takes place on Wednesdays at 12:00. Location: Sid Richardson College.

German Language Consultants
CLIC provides the free service of German language consultants who will meet with German students to help them with assignments and act as conversation partners. You can find the Language Consultants in Rayzor Hall (RH 116 & 116A). Their hours will be announced on Canvas as soon as they are available.

Overall language learning strategies

- Actively participate in class – speak with, listen carefully to and ask questions of classmates and the instructor. Attending *Language Table* is a great ways to improve your listening skills even if you cannot speak much.

- Do not ignore past lessons – language learning is cumulative. Continual review is important to ensure that previously learned material is retained.

- Avoid translating everything. We make sure you understand what is essential – be accepting of the unknown and go with the flow.

- Study often – study for short periods of time throughout the day, every day. We will at times not get to cover everything in class, so you must spend time on these things outside of class without being explicitly told to do so.

- Study/complete homework using your textbook. Review feedback on your homework.

Our Teaching Approach

- Classroom instruction will be in German. You, too, are expected to speak German the entire time in the classroom and have tools available to express comprehension issues. This is because in the classroom we focus on spoken language and on using the language as much as possible. We have only three 50-minute class periods each week, and it is important that you get as much German language input as possible.

- Participation in the classroom is key to learning a language. You have very few opportunities to use the language outside of class. Therefore, pair and group work as well as role-plays are an essential component to our classes and you are expected to participate.

- You will do several speaking quizzes during the semester where you may be assigned a native speaker interlocutor. We do not do this to make you uncomfortable and anxious but to create speaking opportunities for you.

- We tend to focus on language functions, i.e. we teach the language and structures that are necessary to, e.g., make requests, write invitations, make compliments, make suggestions, make arrangements.

- The textbook was carefully chosen by your instructor who is an expert in the field. You will notice that the textbook does not contain long and English explanations of grammar points or grammar drills. We firmly believe that knowing the grammar does not mean that you are able to apply that knowledge when interacting with others. This goes back to our focus on spoken language.

- Structures will not be taught explicitly. Rather, we use an inductive method guided by your instructor. The practice and review of structures will be mostly completed at home. Again, we want to use the little class time we have for speaking.

- At CLIC, we focus on language use and authentic spoken language. That means, we analyze spoken data and work with transcripts of authentic language samples.

Kursfahrplan GERM 142: Spring 2018
(Schedule is tentative and subject to change.)

Montag, 08. Januar
Mittwoch, 10. Januar
Freitag, 12. Januar

Montag, 15. Januar – ***MLK Day***
Mittwoch, 17. Januar
Freitag, 19. Januar

Montag, 22. Januar – **Quiz 1**
Mittwoch, 24. Januar
Freitag, 26. Januar

Montag, 29. Januar
Mittwoch, 31. Januar
Freitag, 2. Februar – **Test 1**

Montag, 5. Februar
Mittwoch, 7. Februar
Freitag, 9. Februar – ***Spring Recess***

Montag, 12. Februar
Mittwoch, 14. Februar – **Quiz 2**
Freitag, 16. Februar

Montag, 19. Februar
Mittwoch, 21. Februar
Freitag, 23. Februar – **Quiz 3**

Montag, 26. Februar
Mittwoch, 28. Februar
Freitag, 2. März – **Test 2**

Montag, 5. März
Mittwoch, 7. März
Freitag, 9. März – **Quiz 4**

Montag, 12. März – ***Spring Break***
Mittwoch, 14. März – ***Spring Break***
Freitag, 16. März– ***Spring Break***

Montag, 19. März
Mittwoch, 21. März
Freitag, 23. März

Montag, 26. März – **Quiz 5**
Mittwoch, 28. März
Freitag, 30. März

Montag, 2. April
Mittwoch, 4. April
Freitag, 6. April **– Test 3**

Montag, 9. April
Mittwoch, 11. April
Freitag, 13. April

Montag, 16. April
Mittwoch, 18. April – **Quiz 6**
Freitag, 20. April